



1
2
3 **TOWN OF NORTH HAMPTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE**
4 **MUNICIPAL ETHICS COMMITTEE**
5 **SEPTEMBER 19, 2019 5:50 PM**
6 **NORTH HAMPTON TOWN HALL**

7 ***DRAFT MINUTEES***

8
9
10 MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Jonathan Pinette, Vice-Chairman Susan Leonardi, Mark L. Janos, Kathleen
11 Kilgore, Larry Miller (Alternate), Phil Wilson (Alternate)

12
13 EXCUSED: Timothy Harned

14
15 ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator Bryan Kaenrath
16

17 **AGENDA**

18
19 Chairman Pinette welcomed everyone to the September 19, 2019 Ethics Committee Meeting and called
20 the meeting to order at 5:50 pm.

21
22 **OLD BUSINESS** – None

23
24 **NEW BUSINESS**

25
26 **Initial Review of Complaint Received September 10, 2019**

27
28 Chairman Pinette asked if there were any recusals from the Board. Ms. Kilgore asked who Larry Miller was
29 sitting in for and Chairman Pinette said Mr. Miller was sitting in for Ms. Kilgore and Mr. Wilson for Mr.
30 Harned.

31
32 Ms. Kilgore recused herself from the board and Mr. Wilson joined the Committee.

33
34 The complaint was sent by Mr. Wally Kilgore to the Ethics Committee dated September 10, 2019, and Mr.
35 Wilson read the complaint in full.

36
37 The complaint alleged that during the Ethics Committee Meeting of August 26, 2019 four (4) members of
38 the North Hampton Standing Ethics Committee engaged in unethical conduct while discussing the Ethics

39 Complaint filed by Mr. Joe Bernardo. It further alleged that the four (4) members repeatedly sullied Mr.
40 Kilgore's reputation and failed to make it clear that the accusation was an alleged violation and
41 their actions were in violation of the Code of Ethics.

42
43 Chairman Pinette said the members listed were himself, Mark Janos, Tim Harned, and Phil Wilson, and
44 the Ethics Committee needed to decide whether to take jurisdiction over the matter. Town Administrator
45 Kaenrath said a Committee-only confidential memo was also sent by Town Counsel on this case. Chairman
46 Pinette said Town Counsel advised that no member listed needed to recuse himself from the next hearing.

47
48 Chairman Pinette said it seemed to be a complaint against an entire board about a meeting, and nothing
49 in this complaint could be substantiated. He recommended that they not take jurisdiction and dismiss the
50 complaint. Mr. Wilson agreed that he saw this as an attempt to disrupt the normal process of the Ethics
51 Committee. Chairman Pinette added that accusing a whole board was actually an abuse of the system in
52 place, and recommended they not take jurisdiction and move on to the next case.

53
54 Mr. Miller asked Mr. Janos if he felt compromised as a member of the Zoning Board, and Mr. Janos said
55 he believed he would be able to act in a completely objective manner and did not act inappropriately as
56 a Zoning Board member. He said he did not have a conflict of interest and agreed that this complaint
57 should be dismissed.

58
59 **Motion:** To dismiss the Complaint received September 10, 2019 and not take jurisdiction.
60 **Motioned:** Mr. Janos
61 **Seconded:** Mr. Wilson
62 **Vote:** Motion approved 4-0, with 1 abstention

63
64 **Any other Item That May Legally Come Before the Committee**

65
66 **Adjournment**

67
68 Mr. Wilson made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Chairman Pinette. The meeting was
69 adjourned at approximately 6:00 pm.

70
71 Respectfully submitted,

72 Patricia Denmark, Recording Secretary